

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Regional Centre Vadodara

Date: 21st November 2020

Timings: 10 am – 11:30 am

Event Type: Webinar

Title: *'Contemporary Art and Design – Inspirations from Life'*

Resource persons: Speaker 1. Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya - Artist & Curator

Title: *'The Two Way Mirror - Life & Art & Vice Versa'*

Speaker 2. Dr Gayatri Menon - Designer & Academician

Title: *'Folk Art and Craft in Modern Design Movement in India'*

Moderator: Dr. Ayswaria Wariar, Regional Director, IGNC, R.C. Vadodara

Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India and as a part of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA's), Foundation Day Celebrations, Regional Centre Vadodara, conducted a webinar on *'Contemporary Art and Design – Inspirations from Life'*. The webinar included a talk and a presentation by two acclaimed speakers: an eminent contemporary artist and an academician from NID. The first speaker - Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya's talk was titled *The Two Way Mirror - Life & Art & Vice Versa'*. Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya in her talk narrated her journey as an artist and shared her life experiences that shaped and continue to inform her practice. She spoke about the feminism in her art, how and why it evolved; her upbringing and culture that deep-rooted her belief system as a feminist and echoed through her paintings. Encouraged to protect her freedom and liberty from a very young age, Ms. Rodwittiya was always encouraged to hold and share her opinions irrespective of her gender. She held on to education as 'the currency of self-progress. Since the age of 5, art was the language for her to communicate and she knew that she had to be a painter. Then she shared her experiences as a female artist studying in the Faculty of fine Arts of Baroda between 1976 and 1981; being the prime time when contemporary Art in India was evolving. Besides her personal life experience, Ms. Rodwittiya's art also drew inspiration also from the political influences, her disciplinary art practices in college, and was greatly influenced by the growing film industry and popular global trends of her time. Explaining her process of painting, Ms. Rodwittiya shared that being a keen observer; she never makes sketches/ drawings to record her ideas but directly articulates them into her paintings. She strongly believes that 'Art is a reflection of life'.

The second presentation was given by Dr Gayatri Menon - Designer and Academician; Senior Faculty at the NID, Ahmedabad on *'Folk Art and Craft in Modern Design Movement in India'*. Dr. Gayatri has over two decades' experience of working with art and craft communities in India. Her idea in the presentation was to share the beauty of their work and thoughts and to draw attention to the sadness of their condition. In a historical backdrop, Dr. Gayatri began her presentation by sharing the inception story of the National Institute of Design (NID) in 1961 during the Nehruvian era along with the establishment of IIT's and IIM's in the country. She also spoke about the Bauhaus Design School as the beginning of modern design after the Industrial Revolution and invent of Mass manufacturing after the World War I. Bauhaus Design School was the first design institute that later evolved into the

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Regional Centre Vadodara

Bauhaus philosophy. Bauhaus philosophy postulates ‘Good design for masses and not for the classes’. This thought also influenced museums to present local crafts to the masses. Dr. Gayatri then explained the Gestalt’s Universal principle of ‘Form follows function’ citing numerous examples. Following this, she moved on to discuss the evolution of Modern Design in India which was based on the India Report by Charles and Ray Eames. Charles and Ray Eames travelled across the country and discovered a ‘Lota’ as an embodiment of Indian art and design culture. Indian design philosophy heavily drew inspiration from the Bauhaus philosophy for the masses and also from the rich Indian culture and everyday objects around us. She even mentioned about Haku Shah, an artist from the Baroda Art School, who closely worked with NID and co-authored a book on rural craftsmen and their work. She spoke about some of the prestigious projects taken up by the students and Faculty at NID like the Jawaja Project that nurtured sensitivity and sensibility towards the Indian crafts communities. Dr. Gayatri then cited some more examples of such projects: the Game design with the Pattachitra artists from Orissa, and with the Bankura terracotta artisans. Next was the setting up of Institutes in the area of craft and design across India such as the IICD in Jaipur and others in Kashmir, Bhubaneswar, UP, and currently in Ranchi, that focus on the ideals of bringing together craft design, and entrepreneurship. She concluded her presentation by affirming that there is a need to create a sustainable environment where our craftsmen can grow. It is also pertinent for artists to stay connected and get inspired from life and designers from everyday objects around them.

The presentations were followed by a Q & A session. The details of the webinar were uploaded on IGNCA web portals and social media platforms. It was conducted on the Zoom platform and screened live on IGNCA Face book page. There were 136 attendees on Zoom and 23 participants on Face book live.

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Regional Centre Vadodara

Webinar photographs

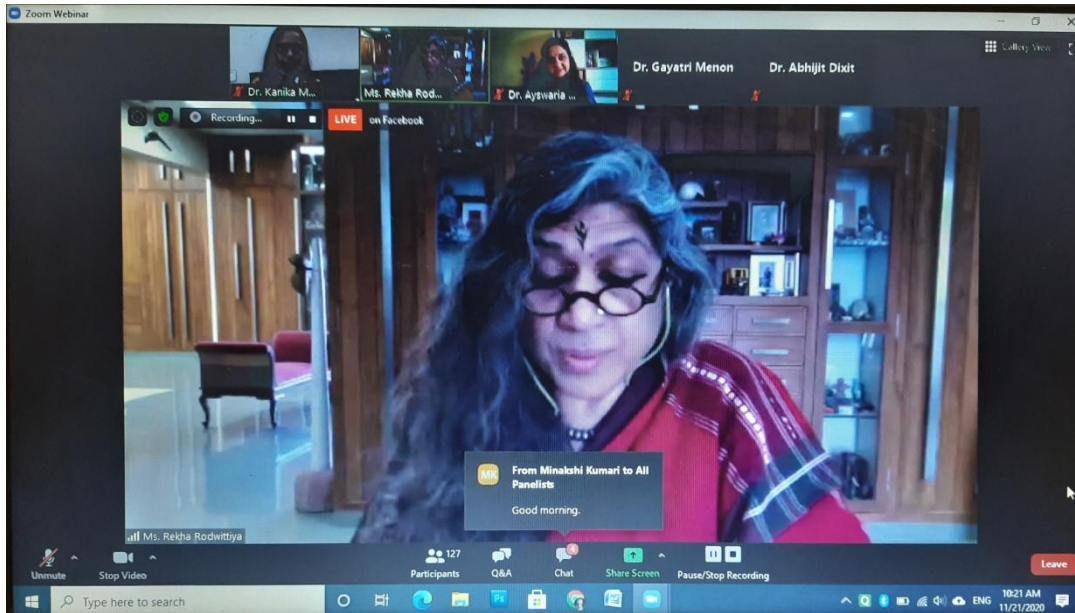


Image 1: Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya sharing her journey as an artist in her talk on *'The Two Way Mirror - Life & Art & Vice Versa'* during the webinar

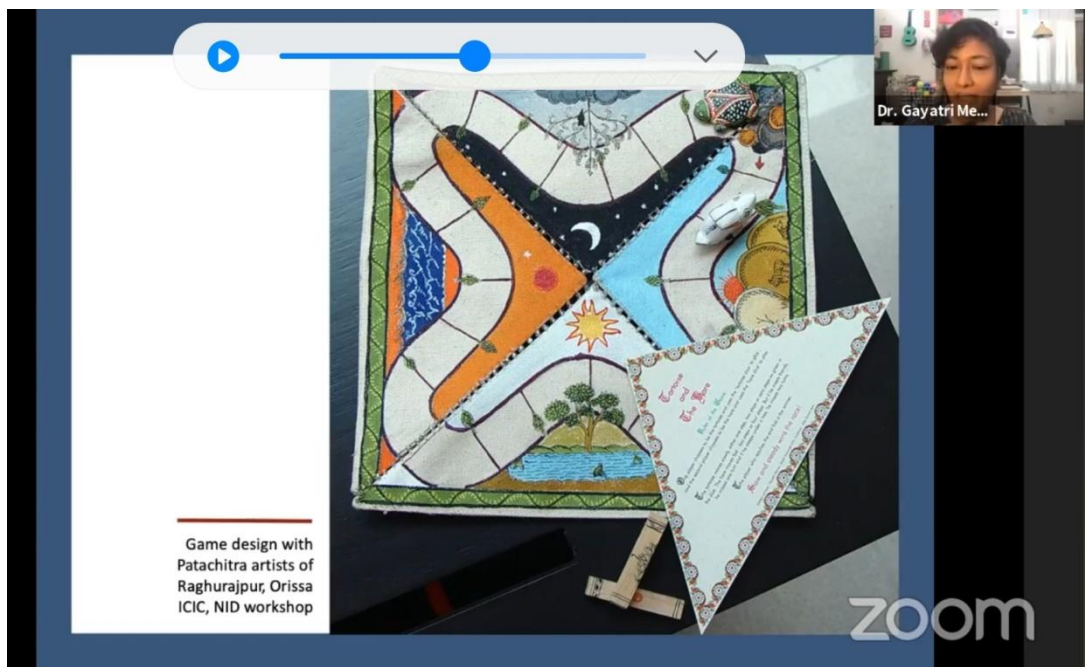




Image 2: Dr Gayatri Menon citing examples of students' projects in her talk on *'Folk Art and Craft in Modern Design Movement in India'* during the webinar

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E-Invitation



Constitution of India, Article 51 A (f)
To value and preserve the rich heritage
of our composite culture



इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India,
Regional Centre - Vadodara

As a part of the 33rd Foundation Day Celebrations

Cordially invites you to join a Webinar on

Contemporary Art and Design – Inspirations from Life


21st November 2020
10.00 am to 11.30 am


Program Details:

1. Welcome Note: Dr. Ayswaria Wariar, Regional Director, IGNCA, R.C.Vadodara
2. Talk by Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya - Artist & Curator
Topic: 'The Two Way Mirror - Life & Art & Vice Versa'
3. Talk by Dr Gayatri Menon - Designer & Academician
Topic: 'Folk Art and Craft in Modern Design Movement in India'
4. Q & A session with speakers
5. Vote of Thanks: Dr. Kanika Mondal, Project Associate, IGNCA, R.C.Vadodara

Webinar link to join and register: https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wNljYMziRCmq8yd8kyy2uA


After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar

●  Streaming live on IGNCA Facebook page

 igncavrc@gmail.com

 www.ignca.gov.in

 + 91 8488902213

 [ignca_delhi](https://www.instagram.com/ignca_delhi)

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Regional Centre Vadodara

Contemporary Art and Design – Inspirations from Life



Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya is an Indian contemporary artist of International acclaim. Her academic qualifications are an M.A. in Painting from Royal College of Art, London, U.K. 1982-84 where she studied as the recipient of the prestigious Inlaks Scholarship after completing her BFA in Painting from Faculty of Fine Arts, The M. S. University of Baroda. She has had 36 solo shows and participated in a number of important group exhibitions across the world. She has participated in various Art Fairs including Art Singapore, ARCO (in Madrid, Spain), India Art Summit, Art Basel Hong Kong, India Art Fair etc. She has also been a part of many residencies and art projects at National and International levels. Ms. Rodwittiya has also worked as a Visiting and Guest Faculty at many prestigious Universities. Ms. Rekha Rodwittiya is the CEO of the Collective Studio Baroda.



Dr. Gayatri Menon, is a Senior Faculty at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, with more than 20 years of experience in design education, research and practice. Her PhD thesis from IIT-Bombay, was given an award of excellence. As a design faculty at NID, she has worked as a project head and designer/-consultant for several industries, public sector design, institution building, craft heritage and socially relevant projects. She has been invited to conduct modules in creativity design innovation at IIMS, IITS, Design Schools in India and Abroad. Currently Board Member at IIT Jammu and IIT Gandhinagar. Dr Gayatri Menon continues to be a part of various expert committees on promoting art and design education with NCERT and was the former Board Member at International Toy Research Foundation (ITRF).